

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AID-05 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 ARA-06

OPIC-03 XMB-02 INT-05 /052 W  
----- 034672

R 080915Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0238

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ETRN GV CA

SUBJECT : CANADIAN VIEWS ON TRANSGUINEAN RAILROAD

REF: CONAKRY 1516

1. DURING MEETING WITH CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, RESIDENT DAKAR, AND TWO OFFICERS FROM HIS EMBASSY NOV 4, EMBOFFS INQUIRED ABOUT CANADIAN INTEREST CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSGUINEAN RAILROAD. IN GENERAL, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AND OFFICERS SEEMED RELUCTANT TO SPEAK IN DETAIL OF PROPOSED RAILROAD AND TENDED TO PLAY DOWN CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT (ALTHOUGH REMARKING WITH OBVIOUS SATISFACTION THAT RED CARPET WAS DOWN FOR THEM IN ALL THEIR MEETINGS WITH GUINEANS BECAUSE OF LOCAL PUBLICITY ABOUT CANADA AND THE RAILROAD). AMBASSADOR APPEARED SKEPTICAL THAT PROJECT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN TIMEFRAME GUINEANS ENVISAGE (BY 1981).

2. CANADIANS DID PROVIDE FOLLOWING INFO ON THE TWO CANADIAN FIRMS INVOLVED.

A. DYNOME IS OWNED BY SOGRAMCAN. CLAUDE C. FRENETTE IS PRESIDENT OF BOTH CORPORATIONS.

B. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED FRENETTE AS PROMOTER  
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AND CONFIRMED THAT HIS COMPANIES WOULD SEEK FINANCING AND

COORDINATE VARIOUS STUDIES AND CONSTRUCTION AMONG SUBCONTRACTORS.  
SAID THAT COMPANIES HAD PROMOTED SIMILAR PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA, SOME OF WHICH WERE SUCCESSFUL.

C. AMBASSADOR SAID FRENETTE HAS "HIGHLY PLACED" CONNECTIONS IN CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH WHICH HE WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE \$500,000 CIDA LOAN TO GUINEAN GOVERNMENT; GUINEANS IN TURN USING \$500,000 TO HIRE DYNAMINE TO DO TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PROJECT.

D. SOGRAMCAN/DYNAMINE WILL SEEK FINANCING WHEREVER AVAILABLE, INCLUDING IN CANADA. BUT FINANCING OF PROJECT FROM CANADIAN SOURCES EXCLUSIVELY IS OUT OF QUESTION. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE ONLY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION SO FAR IS \$500,000 LOAN.

E. WHILE ENTIRE PROJECT MAY TAKE "DECADES", THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT 27-KM SPUR LINE FROM MT NIMBA TO LAMCO WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT CONVEY HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROJECT TO GUINEAN GOVERNMENT. HE CHARACTERIZED GUINEAN GOVERNMENT AS BEING VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSGUINEAN AND GUINEAN-CANADIAN RELATIONS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO DEPT AND OTTAWA CAN PROVIDE ON DYNAMINE AND SOGRAMCAN (SOCIETE DES GRANDS AMENAGEMENTS DU CANADA).  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, RAILROADS, LOANS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ETRN, GV, CA  
**To:** STATE  
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